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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

Spokane District Office
East 4217 Main Avenue
Spokane, Washington 99202

May 1990

Spokane District Resource Management Plan Update #3



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



WATER RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL WATER RESEARCH INSTITUTE
1000 EAST 17TH AVENUE
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources, and works to assure that their development is in the best interest of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

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BLM-OR-ES-90-40-1792

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United States Department of the Interior **Bureau of Land Management**

Spokane District
 East 4217 Main Avenue
 Spokane, Washington 99202

Dear Reader:

The Spokane Resource Management Plan Record of Decision was issued over three years ago. Since then, the District has prepared and distributed an annual summary of its progress toward implementation of that plan. This brochure is the third such progress summary. Like the previous two summaries, this one is not intended to be a comprehensive statement of all the District's activities in 1989, but rather a brief report of these activities. In addition, some discussion is included on the activities planned for 1990.

For additional information about any aspect of the resource management plan, please contact the following:

Bureau of Land Management
 District Manager or Border Resource Area Manager
 at
 Spokane District Office
 East 4217 Main Avenue
 Spokane, Washington, 99202
 (509) 353-2570

or

Bureau of Land Management
 Area Manager
 Wenatchee Resource Area
 1133 N. Western Avenue
 Wenatchee, Washington 98801
 (509) 662-4223

Thank you for your continued interest in our public lands.

2075-02-18-90 47-10-10

Sincerely yours,

Joseph K. Buesing
 Joseph K. Buesing
 District Manager

Spokane District Resource Management Plan Update

1989 PROGRAM SUMMARY

Plan Monitoring, Maintenance and Interagency Coordination

All BLM resource programs are coordinated with affected or interested federal agencies, state and local governments, tribal leaders, interest groups and landowners. BLM staff routinely review and comment on proposed plans, programs and policies of other public agencies whenever public land resources may be affected. This process helps to identify emerging trends or potential issues which may affect program effectiveness or implementation priorities.

Planning

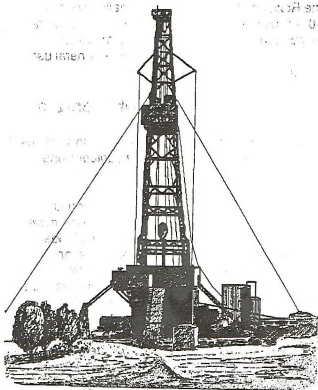
The Spokane District issued a *Federal Register* notice on May 19, 1989 initiating the planning process for a Resource Management Plan Amendment. The purpose of this RMP amendment is to provide supplemental program guidance for fluid minerals subsequent to completion of the Spokane RMP in 1987, BLM Manual Section 1624.2 and policies concerning the fluid minerals program. While the new guidance did not invalidate the RMP, it is BLM policy to bring the RMP into compliance with the new BLM standards which require consideration of cumulative impacts and potential development scenarios for fluid mineral resources in resource management plans.

Other programs to be addressed in this RMP amendment, scheduled to be completed with about one year, include: Potential Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

Forest Management Program

In 1989, the Spokane BLM District did not offer any timber for sale. Two existing timber sale contracts were in effect, however, that required contract administration. Also, there was one timber sale proposal in the preliminary planning stages that involved an environmental analysis, survey of the sale boundaries and rights-of-ways (R/W), cruising (measuring and grading) of all the merchantable timber, and initiation of the access acquisition procedures to the affected parcels.

Fuel wood was again offered to the public with a total of 336 cords being sold at \$3.00 per cord.



Recreation Management Program

The use of public lands for recreational pursuits continues to increase in both diversity and number of visitors.

There are five semi-developed recreation sites managed by BLM in Washington. Three of these sites are located along the Yakima River in Kittitas County between the cities of Ellensburg and Yakima. The other two are located in Okanogan County near the Canadian Border at Palmer and Chopaka Lakes. Many other BLM-administered areas in Washington provide for dispersed recreation, including the Juniper Forest, Douglas Creek, Saddle Mountains and the Huckleberry Mountains Management Areas.

The three recreation sites along the Yakima River were addressed in the Yakima River Canyon Recreation Management Plan that was completed in January 1989. One of this plan's actions that was initiated last year, and is continuing, is the stationing of BLM personnel in the canyon during the summer months. Additional law enforcement personnel were assigned to the area during high use periods throughout the summer, such as the Memorial Day and July 4th week ends.

Two information kiosks were constructed by the Yakima Public Schools through their Building Trades/Skills Center. These kiosks, scheduled for installation at the Roza and Squaw Creek Recreation sites in 1990, will provide information on the various recreation opportunities available in the Yakima River Canyon along with safety tips and other general use information.

Wilderness Management Program

The District's wilderness program focused in 1989, as in 1988, upon implementation of the Juniper Dunes Wilderness Management Plan.

The Rattlesnake Ridge Riders of the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington assisted in removing more of the obsolete fences in the Juniper Dunes Wilderness. Over 20 volunteers from that organization worked on two separate occasions. Horse-drawn wagons were used in removing the materials from the wilderness area to minimize disturbance and demonstrate that the minimum tool concept in wilderness management can be both practical and efficient. More work remains to be done and it will be a few more years before the job is completed. Due to the demonstrated willingness of the Rattlesnake Ridge Riders, the Spokane District has entered into a Cooperative Management Agreement with their organization to assist BLM in its management of the Juniper Dunes Wilderness and the adjacent public lands.

This past year the Spokane District again stationed a BLM official in the Juniper Forest Management Area. The primary responsibility was to provide visitor use information and to conduct patrols of the wilderness area.



Wild Horse and Burro Program

In 1989, four adoption centers were set up in Spokane, Ellensburg and Yakima where 62 horses and 28 burros were adopted by the public. The BLM and the American Mustang and Burro Association (AMBA) co-sponsored an adoption/horse and burro show in Yakima on the July 31st weekend. Approximately 600 people attended. The show had 24 classes, each with six to seven entries. There were also training clinics offered to the public.

To create more public awareness of the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro (WH&B) program, the district sponsored a horse-drawn wagon in the Washington State Centennial Wagon Train. The wagon traveled from eastern Washington to Olympia with advertisements for the Adopt-A-Horse or Burro program.

Noxious Weeds Control Program

During 1989, there were 45 noxious weed infestations inventoried. Measures to control these infestations were specified in an environmental analysis. Memoranda of Understanding for cooperative weed control were finalized with Grant and Ferry counties. Also, 26 noxious weed infestations were treated mechanically or with the use of herbicides in conformance with our approved program and supporting environmental analysis.

Grazing Management Program

In the Spokane District Resource Management Plan, the grazing leases were grouped into three management priorities: Improve (I), Maintain (M), and Custodial (C). High potential for improved management was identified for the 16 allotments in the I-category. These grazing allotments receive the highest priority for monitoring and intensive management. The 24 allotments in the M-category have second priority to ensure that management remains satisfactory.

Monitoring was done on 60 grazing leases in 1989 which involved collection of data on forage utilization, actual livestock use, and climate for both high priority Improve (I) and Maintain (M) category leases. In addition, trends in range condition are monitored at least once every five years. These data will help determine whether management objectives are being met and, if not, where change in management is needed to achieve objectives. Trends in range condition are monitored at least once every 10 years on the remaining 315 Custodial (C) category allotments to determine if there is a need for more intensive management.



Monitoring data have been collected over the last four years for all Category I allotments, and over the last three years for Category M allotments. The District has constructed spring developments, pipelines, cattle guards and fences pursuant to the approved Spokane RMP and the nine District Allotment Management Plans (AMPs). (An AMP is a specific management plan for a grazing lease which is designed to achieve the broad objectives of the RMP.)

Wildlife and Fish Habitat Program

The Spokane District contains a high diversity of wildlife habitats including desert, forests, lakes, streams, and alpine meadows. Important species on these lands include mule and white tail deer, elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, nine species of upland game birds, fish, and hundreds of non game birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Some of these species are in special status categories under federal and state law. Many habitats, such as plant communities dominated by sagebrush or those with riparian areas, represent crucial habitat for a number of species.

This past year, over 11,000 acres of public land in the Spokane District were included in a inventory and analysis to determine enhancement and protection measures needed to maintain or improve quality habitat. The primary focus of these inventories was aquatic, riparian and candidate or sensitive plants and animals.

Development progressed on the Mt. Hull Habitat Management Plan (HMP) for Bighorn sheep; the Huckleberry Mountains HMP for fisheries, deer, elk, grouse, old growth or ancient forests; and the Yakima

Canyon HMP for bighorn sheep, raptors, riparian, upland game, fisheries. These three plans are in various stages of development; however, none was completed in the 1989 program year.

Monitoring efforts targeted significant habitats in HMPs and ACECs (Areas of Critical Environmental Concern) with emphasis on riparian and wetland habitats, waterfowl, fisheries, threatened/endangered (T&E) plants, candidate and sensitive species.

Projects in the 1989 program year emphasized riparian habitat protection and enhancement, and habitat improvement for waterfowl, raptors and T&E species. The district has 127 wildlife projects being maintained on a two- to four-year rotation basis. Most projects are inspected and maintained on a two- to three-year schedule with 40 to 50 projects being scheduled in a given year. In 1989, there were 55 projects inspected and/or maintained.

Lands and Realty Program

Exchanges to enhance other resource programs remain a top priority. In 1989, some 800 acres of federal lands were exchanged for nearly 2,000 acres of private lands having recreation, riparian, and wildlife values in the Douglas Creek Management Area.

Additionally, District Realty Specialists issued 15 rights-of-way for highway improvements, utility installations, and communication sites; resolved 10 trespasses involving occupancy, utilities, and crops; authorized a short-term agricultural permit; and processed a private land donation within a historic mining district.

Cultural Resources Program

During 1989, approximately 2,600 acres of BLM-administered land were surveyed for cultural resources (2,475 by the District Archaeologist and 125 by contract archaeologists). The surveys resulted in locating three rock cairn sites, a historic magnesite mining site, a portion of the Mullan Trail and Colville Military Road, and a historic turn-of-the-century homestead. A historic mill and mine site immediately adjacent to a proposed BLM project area was also investigated. This survey information is on file in the Spokane District BLM Office and is also available with the State Historic Preservation Office in Olympia. None of the prehistoric and historical features will be detrimentally impacted by any of the BLM's proposed management activities.

Native American cultural resource consultants were contacted about project areas having traditional-use concerns, and their advice was incorporated into project plans.

A computerized inventory system, which tracks all completed archaeological survey projects, is now in operation in the Spokane District Office. In addition, all known sites on BLM-administered land in Washington State are encoded into a computer program in preparation for an extensive site evaluation program to begin in fiscal year 1991.

A number of sites were revisited to assess looting damage and to develop anti-vandalism measures. Active site monitoring and protection measures will be enforced in fiscal year 1990.

Minerals Management Program

The minerals program remains diverse. District geologists processed 80 notices and plans for mining operations and conducted 126 inspections of existing mining claims. Two enforcement actions were undertaken as a result of these inspections. Five plans for material sales such as the sale of sand and gravel were also processed in 1989. Recommendations for oil and gas leasing were made on 84 tracts of public land. These recommendations were based on the Spokane Resource Management Plan.

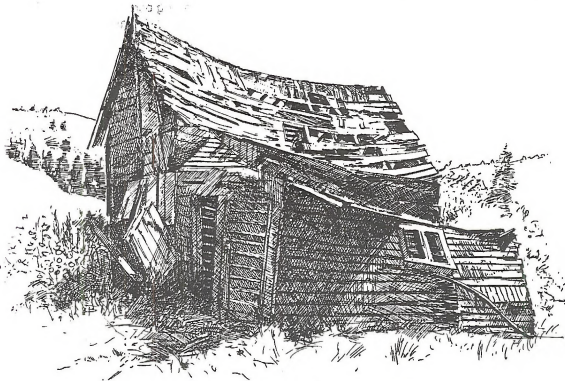
The Centralia Coal Mine, the largest leasable mining operation on federal lands in the State of Washington, has two leases administered by the Spokane District involving 521 acres. In 1989, coal production on federal lands increased from 536,000 tons to 1.3 million tons. Annually, the entire mine produces about five million tons of clean coal. Royalties from the federal leases for 1989 are estimated to be \$260,000.

The district continues to carry out trust responsibility throughout the State for Native American mineral development, operations, and reclamation. This work involves providing technical expertise and advice to 27 Native American Reservations involving 2.5 million acres of tribal land. Typical projects include gold, silver, uranium, quarry rock, and sand and gravel operations.

Fire Management

Spokane District has completed the initial attack analysis portion of the Fire Management Activity Plan. As approved by the Oregon State Office, it calls for a combination of strength-of-force and contracted fire suppression for district lands. The consolidated plan will be reviewed by BLM's Washington Office in 1990-91 and once approved will be implemented as funding allows.

The 1989 fire season saw 20 fires involving over a thousand acres of BLM lands. This is a reduction of nearly 3,400 acres from the previous season.



1990 PROPOSED PROJECTS AND PROGRAM EFFORTS

Recreation Management

During this year's fall hunting season the BLM will assign a recreation ranger to patrol the Huckleberry Mountains Management Area, Little Vulcan Mountain in North Ferry Management Area, and Chopaka Lake in Okanogan County. The ranger's primary responsibility will be to provide information regarding access to public lands.

This year the Spokane BLM District will continue to implement its Yakima River Canyon Recreation Management Plan. Site plans for Roza, Squaw Creek and Umtanum Creek have been completed. On-the-ground improvements will be made accordingly. These include replacement of the existing temporary toilets with permanent structures at the Roza and Squaw Creek sites. Information kiosks will also be installed. Patrols of these sites will be conducted year round with a ranger being permanently stationed in the Yakima River Canyon from May through September.

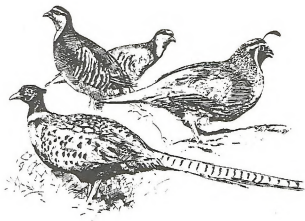
Wilderness Management

Regular visits to the Chopaka Mountain Wilderness Study Area will continue throughout the year in accordance with BLM Interim Management Policy.

In the Juniper Dunes Wilderness, the BLM will continue to remove the unnecessary facilities with the assistance of the Backcountry Horsemen. One or two work sessions are planned during 1990.

The proposed land exchange, which was discussed above, involves another 60 acres of private land within the wilderness boundary being transferred to federal ownership. This exchange will leave only 240 acres of the more than 850 acres of private lands that existed originally within the Juniper Dunes Wilderness at the time of its designation in 1984.

A ranger will again be assigned to the area and will conduct patrols throughout the year. The primary emphasis will be to monitor recreation use of both the Juniper Dunes Wilderness and the adjacent public lands, and to ensure compliance with provisions of the Juniper Dunes Wilderness Management Plan.



Noxious Weed Control

Over the next year, the Spokane District will continue to inventory and control noxious weed infestations in cooperation with local counties. An environmental analysis will be prepared to analyze potential control methods.

The District will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Grant and Ferry counties for cooperative control of noxious weeds.

Wild Horse and Burro Program

In 1990, the Wild Horse and Burro (WH&B) program will concentrate on conducting compliance checks of existing horse and burro adoptions. Public awareness of BLM's WH&B program will also be emphasized through presentations at horse shows, county and state fairs and through the news media throughout Washington State.

Cultural Resources Management

During 1990, documentary research will begin on prehistoric rock features in the channeled scablands. A research plan will be designed to properly investigate these rock features in 1991 and 1992, preliminary to developing a protective management plan for the numerous talus pit, rock cairn and rock wall sites.

Approximately 2,000 acres will be surveyed for archaeological resources in 1990. Previously identified archaeological sites will be monitored in an effort to prevent vandalism and looting.

Lands and Realty Program

Over the past several years BLM has been working on a land exchange with Burlington Northern (BN) Railroad. This exchange has been completed this spring. The BLM relinquished about 2,210 acres of Bureau of Reclamation withdrawn lands located in Franklin County, in exchange for approximately 2,560 acres of BN lands located in the Juniper Forest Management Area and another 6,347 acres in the Saddle Mountain Management Area. This exchange will improve the efficiency of managing public lands in these two areas.

Minerals Resources Program

In FY 90, BLM will continue preparation of a Resource Management Plan Amendment for Oil and Gas leasing. The draft plan is tentatively scheduled to be published in the fall of 1990. Hardrock and common material mining operations will continue to be monitored in accordance with the applicable (43 CFR 3800).

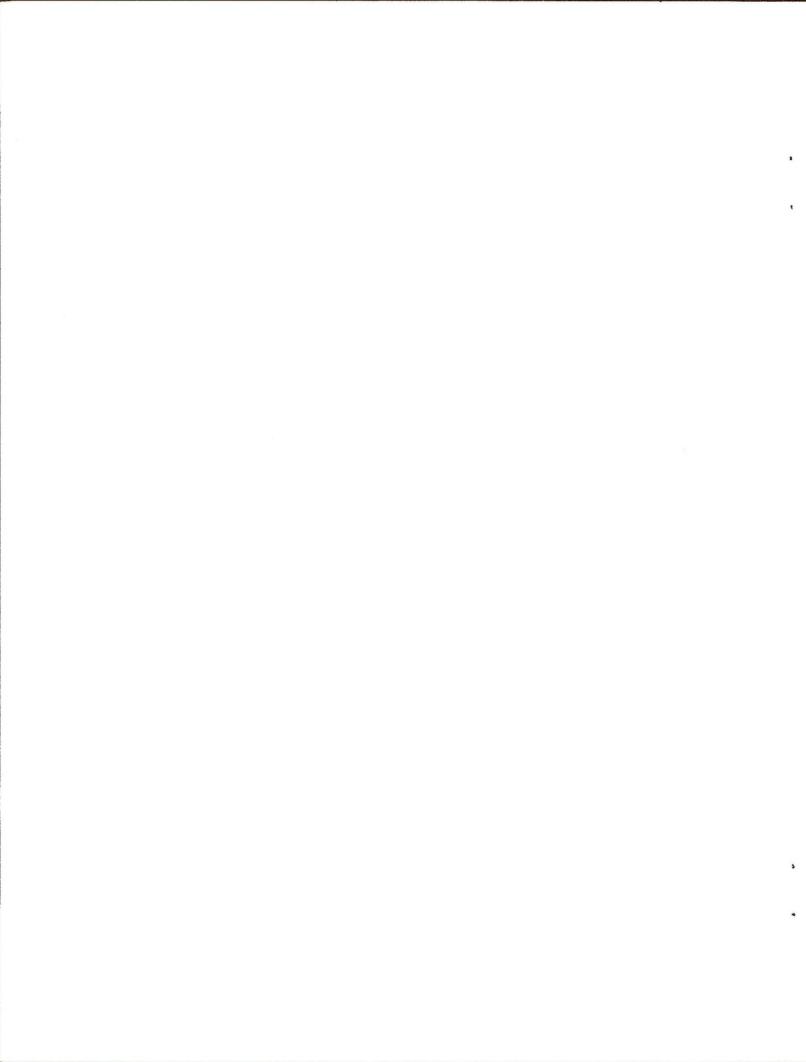
The district will continue to carry out its trust responsibilities throughout the State for Native American mineral development, operations, and reclamation.

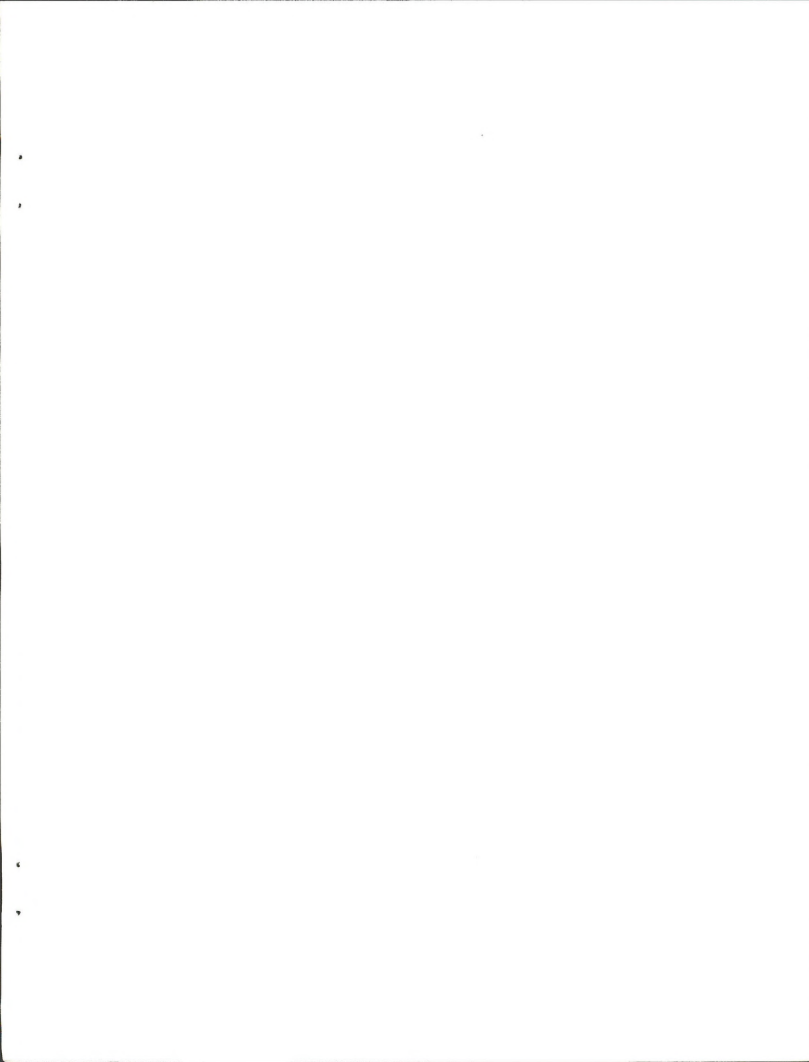
Vandalism

Thanks to your cooperation the incidences of vandalism that we experienced in the past are diminishing. However, there is still room for improvement, for example: This past year two steel gates, used to control livestock and facilitate access to adjoining public lands for hunters and campers, valued at approximately \$200, were stolen. In the Yakima River Canyon at the Roza Recreation Site, the men's toilet and the recreation site entrance sign were damaged with gunshots. At the Umtanum Creek Recreation Site, one entire sign was stolen and the remaining one was partially broken. Graffiti is also beginning to appear with more frequency throughout the canyon.

Efforts to mitigate these acts of vandalism are being undertaken, but such measures can be costly. In many cases, funds originally obligated to upgrading facilities had to be reallocated to repair, replace, or restore existing facilities or natural features.

You have assisted us in the past with reporting actions such as these through local law officials or by calling BLM's toll-free number, 1-800-333-SAVE, so please continue to do so. Such assistance is sincerely appreciated.





U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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SPOKANE, WASHINGTON 99202**

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